

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) An information reproduction apparatus for reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium, comprising:

recording means for recording, onto the information recording medium, history information comprising apparatus identification information for identifying a first reproduction apparatus that plays the recording medium;

reproduction means for reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by said recording means;

control means for controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by said reproduction means; wherein playing of said information recording medium is prevented if the history information indicates said information reproduction apparatus is not the first reproduction apparatus;

said information recording medium being a disk medium wherein said information is audio or video data; and said information reproduction apparatus reproduces said audio or video data directly from the disk medium; and

~~according to claim 3, further comprising~~ storage means for storing identification information for identification of said information reproduction apparatus, and wherein said recording means records the identification information as the history information, and said control means compares the identification information reproduced by said reproduction means and the identification information stored in said storage means with

each other and controls reproduction of the information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

Claims 5-6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (original) An information recording and reproduction apparatus for recording or reproducing information onto or from an information recording medium, comprising:

recording means for recording, onto the information recording medium, history information representing that the information recording medium has been recorded at least once;

reproduction means for reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by said recording means; and

control means for controlling recording or reproduction of information onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by said reproduction means.

Claim 8. (original) An information recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising storage means for storing identification information for identification of said information recording and reproduction apparatus, and wherein said recording means records the identification information as the history information, and said control means compares the identification information reproduced by said reproduction means and the identification information stored in said storage means with each other and controls

recording or reproduction of the information onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

Claim 9. (original) An information recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said recording means records the identification information onto the information recording medium when the information recording medium is initialized.

Claim 10. (original) An information recording and reproduction method for recording or reproducing information onto or from an information recording medium, comprising the steps of:

recording, onto the information recording medium, history information representing that the information recording medium has been recorded at least once;

reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by the recording step; and

controlling recording or reproduction of information onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by the reproduction step.

Claim 11. (original) A providing medium which provides a computer-readable program for causing an information recording and reproduction apparatus for recording or reproducing information onto or from an information recording medium to execute a process comprising the steps of:

recording, onto the information recording medium, history information

representing that the information recording medium has been recorded at least once;

reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by the recording step; and

controlling recording or reproduction of information onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by the reproduction step.

Claims 12-17. (canceled)

Claim 18. (original) An information recording and reproduction apparatus for recording and reproducing information transmitted thereto onto an information recording medium together with information identification data, comprising:

storage means for storing the information identification data;

recording means for recording the information identification data onto the information recording medium;

reproduction means for reproducing the information identification data recorded on the information recording medium by said recording means; and

control means for comparing the information identification data reproduced by said reproduction means with the information identification data stored in said storage means and controlling recording or reproduction onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

Claim 19. (original) An information recording and reproduction method for

recording and reproducing information transmitted thereto onto an information recording medium together with information identification data, comprising the steps of:

storing the information identification data;

recording the information identification data onto the information recording medium;

reproducing the information identification data recorded on the information recording medium by the recording step; and

comparing the information identification data reproduced by the reproduction step with the information identification data stored by the storing step and controlling recording or reproduction onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

Claim 20. (original) A providing medium which provides a computer-readable program for causing an information recording and reproduction apparatus for recording and reproducing information transmitted thereto onto an information recording medium together with information identification data to execute a process comprising the steps of:

storing the information identification data;

recording the information identification data onto the information recording medium;

reproducing the information identification data recorded on the information recording medium by the recording step; and

comparing the information identification data reproduced by the reproduction step with the information identification data stored by the storing step and controlling

recording or reproduction onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

Claim 21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (original) An information reproduction apparatus for accepting a removable storage medium in which first identification information for identification of an information recording medium and second identification information for identification of an information reproduction apparatus which reproduces the information recording medium are stored and reproducing information recorded on the information recording medium, comprising;

storage means for storing third identification information for identification of said information reproduction apparatus;

reproduction means for reproducing fourth identification means for identification of the information recording medium recorded on the information recording medium; and

control means for comparing the fourth identification information reproduced by said reproduction means and the first identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and comparing the third identification information stored in said storage means and the second identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and for controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with results of the comparisons.

Claim 23. (original) An information reproduction method for an information reproduction apparatus for accepting a removable storage medium in which first identification

information for identification of an information recording medium and second identification information for identification of an information reproduction apparatus which reproduces the information recording medium are stored and reproducing information recorded on the information recording medium, comprising the steps of:

storing third identification information for identification of said information reproduction apparatus;

reproducing fourth identification information for identification of the information recording medium recorded on the information recording medium; and

comparing the fourth identification information reproduced by the reproduction step and the first identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and comparing the third identification information stored in the storage step and the second identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and for controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with results of the comparisons.

Claim 24. (original) A providing medium which provides a computer-readable program for causing an information recording and reproduction apparatus for accepting a removable storage medium in which first identification information for identification of an information recording medium and second identification information for identification of an information reproduction apparatus which reproduces the information recording medium are stored and reproducing information recorded on the information recording medium to execute a process comprising the steps of:

storing third identification information for identification of said information

reproduction apparatus;

reproducing fourth identification information for identification of the information recording medium recorded on the information recording medium; and

comparing the fourth identification information reproduced by the reproduction step and the first identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and comparing the third identification information stored in the storage step and the second identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and for controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with results of the comparisons.